N S 135 has a reserve of 700,000 metric tons. Pozdneev, D. M., mentions that nickel exists in Sinkiang in his Ocherki Stran Dal'nego Vostoka (Essays on Far Eastern Countries), pp. 164-66, but no further data are available.

3. Non-ferrous metals

Among the non-ferrous metals of northwest China copper, gold, S 316 platinum, silver, aluminum, lead and zinc are relatively important. The air approach to the Koz-tokai mining area of [508] the Sinkiang Non-ferrous Metals Company is a vast snowbound area on the eastern side of the Altai Range on the Sino-Soviet S border. A smooth highway runs from the airfield to the mining [491] town. (Urumchi, Uighur, Feb. 1, 1955, 1150 GMT. -B. cited by FBIS, No. 25, Feb. 4, 1955).

S N 135 a. Copper:

Rich copper deposits have been found in Shensi, Kansu, and Sinkiang. In addition, bornite, presumed to be very rare in the Eastern Hemisphere, has been discovered in south Shensi province, leading to the belief that China may have additional rich bornite deposits. Sinkiang also has considerable copper ore deposits of high quality. It is the most important non-ferrous metal resource of the province. It is found in the Ili river valley, in the northern foothills of the Tien-shan and in the S Pamir Mountains, near Kashgar. The copper ore mined near N Kashgar is reported to have a content of thirty to forty percent 316 pure copper and the deposits spread over 600 square miles. The copper ore mined near Kashgar contains thirty-five percent iron and sulfur. That mined at K'ang-shan, Pai-cheng, Urumchi, I-ning, and Sui-ting is also notable. Since native methods are inefficient, some mines originally worked were forced to close, i.e., those near Urumchi, Kashgar and west of Ili. Many other local deposits are known. Before World War II the copper output in Sinkiang was 150 tons a year. In 1930 a state copper melting factory was put into operation in Kashgar which, in addition to processing copper ore, also minted copper coins. The following two tables indicate the distribution of copper mines of Sinkiang and the copper ore deposits of Northwest China in general (Tables VII and VIII.)[1]

S 135 b. Gold and Platinum:

Gold is particularly rich in Sinkiang. It is widely spread, stretching from the Altai on the north to the Kunlun-Altyn-tagh mountains in the far south.

The names of Altai and Altyn Tagh Mountains mean gold in the Mongolian language. Nuggets weighing as much as forty-four ounces have been found here. Pigeon-egg sized nuggets are also found. Platinum is reputed to exist in the Altai mountains S too. Rich gold mines are found in the vicinity of Khotan, 316 Karagaitash, Sorghal, Keriya (Yü-tien) Cherchen, Yarkand,

A 1. [See p. 132-- Analyst]